

Message Text

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, UN, OCON

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CANDIDATES FOR 1978-1980 SEAT IN THE
COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID

1. EARLY CAMPAIGNING BY AUSTRALIA FOR RE-ELECTION AND BY SRI LANKA FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS (CFA), FOR THE THREE YEAR TERM (1978-1980) CALLS ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE ELECTIONS OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES TO BE CHOSEN BY THE FAO COUNCIL IN ITS MEETING ON DECEMBER 2 WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT BECUASE THEY INVOLVE KEY MEMBERS OF THE CFA, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES.

2. SRI LANKA HAS CIRCULARIZED THE FAO COUNCIL MEMBER COUNTRY RPERESENTATIVES HERE AND IN GENEVA, POINTING OUT THAT IT CEASED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FAO COUNCIL AT THE END OF 1976, AND WILL END ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AT THE END OF 1977. IT IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) AND WILL BE AN ALTERNATE IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF IFAD THROUGH ARRANGEMENTS OF THE ASIA GROUP. SRI LANKA WAS PREVIOUSLY A MEMBER OF CFA'S PREDECESSOR, THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM,
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UNTIL 1961, AT WHICH TIME IT STEPPED DOWN IN RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION WITHIN COUNTRIES OF A REGION. IT WOULD LIKE TO RETURN NOW TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM GOVERNING BODY BECAUSE IT IS AN IMPORTANT RECIPIENT OF FOOD AID.

3. THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT ALL FIVE COUNTRIES CHOSEN BY

THE FAO COUNCIL WHOSE TERMS IN THE CFA END AT THE END OF THIS YEAR ARE KEY COUNTRIES: AUSTRALIA, CANADA, INDIA, SAUDI ARABIA, AND THE UNITED STATES. AUSTRALIA HAS ALREADY STARTED CAMPAIGNING FOR RE-ELECTION, AND WE PRESUME ALMOST ALL THE OTHERS WILL AS WELL. INDIA, A MAJOR SOUTH ASIAN RECIPENT OF FOOD AID, IS PARTICULARLY THREATENED BY THE SRI LANKA CANDIDACY (PAKISTAN IS AN ECOSOC ELECTED MEMBER WITH TERM EXPIRING IN 1978: BANGLADESH IS NOT A MEMBER). IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE WEIGHT OF VOTES MIGHT KNOCK OUT AUSTRALIA, WHICH HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

4. THE MEMBERS ELECTED BY ECOSOC, ON MAY 11, 1977, FOR THE 1978-80 TERMS WERE: GREECE, HUNGARY, NORWAY AND TUNISIA. THE ASIAN SEAT HAS NOT YET BEEN SELECTED BY ECOSOC, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION. IN THIS ELECTION, ONLY HUNGARY WAS RE-LECTED. THE TERMS OF MAURITANIA, THE PHILIPPINES, SWEDEN AND TURKEY WILL END DECEMBER 31, 1977. GARDNER

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